

Information Re Worldwide Hilton Boycott

Organized by Indivisible Abroad, its Chapters and Members

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Why It Matters Where You Stay

Discover what makes Hilton unique: reliable amenities and our acclaimed Hilton Honors loyalty program.

Why consider boycotting Hilton hotels?

Overcoming authoritarianism requires us to declare our independence from the monied interests working against our rights and, ultimately, our well-being. Our most fundamental right is freedom: The Rule of Law with Due Process in a Democracy free from corruption.

And as Martin Luther King jr. said: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We call on people everywhere to review the information in this statement drawn from public reporting and to reach your own conclusion about whether you want to stop staying at hotels in the Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc. (**HWH**) system.

We have come to the conclusion that doing business with these hotels enriches a company and its shareholders that profit off of, and contribute money back to, the Trump Regime and its oppressive treatment of migrants. It perpetuates a cycle of physical and (il)legal oppression for the benefit of oligarchs and wannabe authoritarians.

Hotels in the HWH system provide lodging to ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (US Customs and Border Protection) (in the following collectively, “ICE”), who, as masked agents in unmarked cars, have notably shot and killed US citizens Renee Good and Alex Pretti on the streets of America. ICE has detained numerous persons in violation of countless constitutional guarantees, laws, court orders and human rights based on racial profiling and promised bonuses for kidnapping and shipping off immigrants regardless of their residency rights, in many cases to third countries where the detainee knows no one and does not speak the local language.

By taking your business elsewhere, you could help break the financial cycle that supports and drives this ICE terror and the Trump Regime imposing it. Stopping a boycott of HWH hotels makes sense only if HWH refuses service to ICE (or the Trump Regime ends).

The Minneapolis Disfranchisement

Calls for a boycott of Hilton hotels increased rapidly in early January 2026, when a Minneapolis hotel in the HWH system canceled reservations made by ICE in its “surge”

against migrants in that city.^{1 2} Within days, Hilton [presumably HWH] announced publicly *"We are taking immediate action to remove this hotel from our systems."*

Billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman praised Hilton's handling of the quickly unfolding situation.³ Two days later a crane removed the sign on the hotel bearing the Hilton name.⁴

Hilton said the local hotel management denying reservations to ICE *"clearly raises concerns that they are not meeting our standards and values."* HWH stated further that *"Hilton is - and has always been - a welcoming place for all."*⁵

A closer look

In 2020, HWH itself denied reservations to a contractor working for ICE, explaining in two statements (July 24 and September 21, 2020) *"... the detainment of migrants, including minors, is not activity that we support or in any way want associated with our hotels."*⁶

So HWH welcomes ICE agents, but not the migrant children the ICE agents detain. Contrary to the statements by HWH in 2020, its hotels are certainly *"associated with the detainment of migrants"*, just to provide lodging to the detainers.

The number of children currently detained by ICE, some under reportedly harmful conditions,⁷ has jumped 6-fold under the Trump Regime since 2025.⁸

Your actions here can affect HWH's bottom line

HWH seeks to profit from all the 7,500 some hotels in its system worldwide. HWH can profit either directly from owning the hotel or from royalty fees paid to them by franchisee hotels for use of the Hilton name or for other services. Every hotel with "Hilton" in its name presumably creates profits for HWH. There are also other hotels which are part of HWH without "Hilton" in their name, such as Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, Conrad Hotels, Graduate Hotels, DoubleTree, and Curio, as well.⁹

At the 2022 ITC in Berlin, Germany, Hilton launched a new ad campaign: *"It matters where you stay"*.¹⁰ We agree.



Hilton. For The Stay | It Matters Where You Stay

We believe that **the heart of a great trip is a great stay**. It goes without saying that your destination is important, but the stay is everything else and more.



HWH donates to the Trump Regime

In 2023-24, the HWH Political Action Committee made 86.49% of its political donations to Republicans with only 13.51% going to Democrat recipients.¹¹

HWH made an in-kind contribution to Trump's 2025 Inauguration party valued at \$282,897.04.¹²

Trump campaign organizations and the Republican National Committee were the top three purchasers of HWH services in 2024 reported under Federal Election Commission rules.¹³

Looking at the shareholders of HWH adds a greater order of magnitude to this support of the Trump Regime.

The shareholders of HWH support the Trump Regime

The 5 largest shareholders in HWH contributed over US\$ 1.6 million via "Political Action Committees" (PACS) to congresspersons who voted to block the certification of Joe Biden as President in 2021.¹⁴

The two largest shareholders of HWH purchased large stakes in Trump's "Truth Social", during the 2024 Presidential Campaign.¹⁵

Two of the five largest HWH shareholders are listed among the "Heavy hitters" donating to Trump's 2025 Inauguration.¹⁶

The largest HWH shareholder, Blackrock, Inc., made a secret donation to Trump's planned White House ballroom, which was discovered by the press and triggered an investigation in the US Senate to clarify why the donation was kept secret.¹⁷

HWH profits from ICE terror and the Trump Regime generally

HWH sells lodging for profit. An internet search found no indication that it is donating lodging to ICE and CBP agents. How much does HWH profit from ICE? Actual figures are not publicly-available information. Using conservative assumptions and reported industry average profit margins, if only 1000 of the 2000 to 3000 ICE agents in Minneapolis stayed at HWH hotels for 60 days in 2026, that would be an estimated profit to HWH of US\$ 720,000 in the first 2 months of 2026 in Minneapolis alone.¹⁸

HWH can expect further non-negligible profits from providing lodging to ICE. ICE has 22,000 agents currently, having more than doubled its workforce in 2025.¹⁹ As of September 2025, ICE also diverted more than 25,000 additional law enforcement officers from their jobs.²⁰ ICE continues to recruit new employees.²¹

HWH's shareholders may profit even more

HWH shareholders have received and can expect significant profits in return for supporting the Trump Regime. "BlackRock Becomes a Power Player in Global Shipping—With Help From Trump" wrote the Wall Street Journal in March 2025.²² Blackrock added US 23\$ billion to its portfolio through that deal.

Blackrock, Inc. -- along with 3 of the other top 5 shareholders in HWH -- are identified as major shareholders in both CoreCivic and GEO Group, which own and operate the majority of ICE detention facilities and do so for profit.²³ ICE holds some 70,000 detained persons in custody,²⁴ nearly 90% of whom are held in privately run facilities.²⁵

ICE is Trump's Regime of lawless terror

Between October 2025 and 17 February 2026, more than 400 federal judges have issued at least 4,421 rulings that ICE is holding immigrants illegally, according to a new analysis by Reuters.²⁶ Before the end of January 2026, a judge in Minnesota found that ICE has violated 96 court orders from 74 different immigration cases just since 1 January 2026 alone, stating that ICE had disobeyed more judicial directives that month than "some federal agencies have violated in their entire existence."²⁷

Since the start of the second Trump administration in 2025, over 30 individuals have died in ICE custody.²⁸ NBC News found that immigration personnel have shot at least 13 people since September 2025 (including Mr. Pretti and Ms. Good), with at least four of those shootings being fatal, while only 4 of those 13 cases involved people who ended up being charged with crimes.²⁹

Holding centers run by ICE in the USA have been called out by the United Nations, Amnesty International and the American Civil Liberties Union as violating the detainees' constitutional and humans rights.^{30 31 32} These include allegations of widespread physical and sexual abuse.³³ An investigation by a US Senator found over 1,000 credible reports of Human Rights abuses in immigration detention in the USA.³⁴ ICE has removed hundreds of detainees to notorious torture prisons outside of the USA without due process, which amounts to extra-judicial rendition, not deportation, even while knowing that there was no evidence many of these detainees had criminal convictions anywhere.^{35 36}

Trump promised that ICE would go after "the worst of the worst",³⁷ but the number of people in ICE detention with no criminal record has gone from nearly zero to around 25,000 since January 2025.³⁸ He also has massively increased funding for ICE, making it the highest funded US law enforcement agency.³⁹ The number of ICE agents more than doubled since Trump took office again and recruiting continues.⁴⁰ These new officers were hired through an inadequate recruitment system and have received a pared-down, "deficient, defective and broken" training program.^{41 42}

In at least 40 cases, ICE agents are alleged to have used choke-holds that cut off breathing and are potentially fatal. These choke-holds are banned under police rules but were used against US citizens and migrants alike.⁴³ More than once ICE agents have pepper-sprayed children, including a one-year-old girl.⁴⁴

There are numerous reports, as well as videos in social media, about ICE engaging in violence and intimidation against people observing ICE operations. In the pending lawsuit *Tincher v. Noem* filed by the ACLU on December 17, 2025, a diverse group of over 80 Minnesota residents has alleged that ICE violated their First Amendment rights as they observed, documented, and protested ICE activity in their neighborhoods. These include ICE agents following them home, pepper spraying them without cause or warning, body-slammings them to the ground, and attempting to intimidate them in the streets by calling them by name and saying they knew where the observer lives.⁴⁵

CNN reports similar and further violence against observers and protesters in its 10 March 2026 article:

“A CNN analysis of more than two dozen videos of federal agents using less-lethal weapons such as chemical sprays, pepper ball guns and rubber bullets found officers routinely violated both federal and local law enforcement use-of-force policies.

Those include cases where officers deployed chemical weapons near children and numerous incidents where officers fired less-lethal weapons at protesters’ heads and faces from close range. In most of these cases, agents had no obvious reason to fear for their safety, a key requirement for this type of use-of-force.

“They have violated every protocol on less-lethal (weapons) and crowd control,” former Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske said about these federal agents. “Not making an announcement to disperse, body-slammings people to the ground...they’re supposed to de-escalate, and they don’t.””

These are the ICE agents HWH want all of its hotels to welcome or face defranchisement. The shareholders of HWH will benefit from the detainment of the persons taken by those ICE agents. Is that a business you want to support?

Hilton boycott is only a start

There are many more companies that profit off of ICE terror and unsuspecting consumers to create an authoritarian future, and not just in the USA. Citizens across the world must protect their freedom, rights and prosperity by sharing information and withholding their business from companies that are indifferent to the Rule of Law, Democracy, Human Rights, and common human decency.

¹ NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all following sources were accessed on March 12, 2026.

² Trump administration launched Operation Metro Surge by ICE in December 2025 and stated it would expand it with upwards of 2,100 ICE agents and Homeland Security investigators to the area.

<https://www.fox9.com/news/hilton-removing-mn-hotel-denied-ice-bookings>.

³ <https://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/hilton-cuts-ties-minnesota-hotel-owner-after-dhs-ice-agents-allegedly-denied-service>.

⁴ <https://www.foxnews.com/us/crane-removes-hampton-inn-hilton-sign-from-minnesota-hotel-allegedly-denied-service-dhs-ice-agents> .

⁵ <https://www.fox9.com/news/hilton-removing-mn-hotel-denied-ice-bookings>;
<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/hilton-removes-minneapolis-hotel-that-cancelled-reservation-immigration-agents-2026-01-06/>.

⁶ <https://stories.hilton.com/releases/statement-from-hilton> .

⁷ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/migrant-families-allege-children-held-by-ice-face-unsafe-and-unsanitary-conditions>. (Geoff Bennett: Well, the Department of Homeland Security did not respond to the News Hour's multiple requests for a response to the allegations about the conditions at Dilley. But in court documents filed last month, the administration wrote -- quote -- "ICE's actions exemplify a model of regulatory compliance and humane care." How do you respond to that claim?

Becky Wolozin: It's just not true. They are not complying with the Flores Settlement Agreement. They're holding children for extensive periods of time. The conditions are not meeting those basic requirements, as mentioned, not just because of the food. The water is problematic. Often, the water containers have mold or algae in them around the facility. The lights are on all night. Children can't sleep. There are constant interruptions. They don't have access to school, which they admitted in their most recent filing. And, in fact, there's so little to do there that it makes it all the more difficult for children to even cope with the situation in which they're being held.")

⁸ <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/01/29/ice-kids-in-detention-numbers>.

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilton_Worldwide.

¹⁰ <https://news.itb.com/topics/news/hilton-it-matters-where-you-stay/>.

¹¹ <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/hilton-worldwide/C00213074/pac-to-pac/2024>; The political contributions by HWH skew less to the Republican party in some subordinate categories.

¹² <https://skift.com/2025/04/21/travel-companies-were-big-donors-to-trumps-inauguration-see-who-gave/>.

¹³ <https://www.opensecrets.org/campaign-expenditures/vendor?cycle=> .

¹⁴ The 5 largest shareholders of HWH in early 2026 are Blackrock, Inc., Vanguard Group Inc. Fidelity Management & Research Company, LLC, JPMORGAN CHASE & CO, State Street Corp. Principal Financial Group, Inc. <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/HLT/holders/> They hold around 32-33 % of the shares in HWH. Id. Cf. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-12/fund-managers-gave-more-than-1-million-to-gop-election-deniers> and <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/1/12/bbbig-firms-gave-1-1m-to-republicans-who-objected-to-bidens-win>.

¹⁵ The 2 largest shareholders are Blackrock, Inc. and Vanguard Group Inc., which acquired the stake in Trump's "Truth Social" by purchasing shares of its parent company, Trump Media & Technology Group. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/blackrock-vanguard-big-purchasers-trump-media-shares-q2-filings-show-2024-08-14/>.

¹⁶ “In the finance industry with large donations for the 2025 inauguration included BlackRock, ... , JPMorgan Chase ...” <https://www.barrons.com/articles/trump-inauguration-fund-apple-google-tesla-ripple-coinbase-97591b39> .

¹⁷ “On November 3, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) sent Fink a letter demanding more information surrounding BlackRock’s donation to Trump’s ballroom, which the White House did not originally disclose.” <https://truthout.org/articles/trumps-white-house-ballroom-is-being-bankrolled-by-genocide-and-ice-profiters/> ; <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/c08606697b51cdea/37ec333f-full.pdf> .

¹⁸ 60,000 person-nights at a conservative guesstimate of US\$ 150 per night yields gross revenue of US\$ 9 million. Assuming for the sake of modelling one-half of the hotels are owned by Hilton with an industry average 10% profit margin and the other half under a branding franchise with an industry average 6% royalty on gross revenues, that amounts US\$ 450,000 + US\$ 270,000, respectively, i.e. US\$ 720,000 in profit to HWH. See <https://revenue-hub.com/hidden-costs-branded-hotel/> (6% industry average royalty on Gross Revenue paid by franchise to franchisor (here, HWH); <https://www.siteminder.com/r/hotel-profit-margin/> (industry average 10% profit margin on owned hotels) ; <https://www.hilton.com/en/locations/usa/minnesota/minneapolis/> (AI-summary: “Average daily rates for Hilton-branded hotels in the Minneapolis metro area typically range from roughly \$150 to over \$250+ per night, depending on the specific brand (e.g., Garden Inn vs. Downtown Hilton), location, and season. As of late 2025, the broader Hilton Worldwide portfolio had an average daily rate of approximately \$159.”). Another way to calculate the profit to HWH would be a per night profit of US\$ 12 per agent per night on a US\$ 150 per person per night price and an average 8% profit rate (one-half owned hotels at 10%, one-half franchised hotels at 6%) in gross revenue.

¹⁹ [https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2026/01/ice-more-doubled-its-workforce-2025/410461/#:~:text=The%20federal%20agency%20at%20the%20center%20of,that%20provided%20\\$8%20billion%20for%20ICE%20hiring.](https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2026/01/ice-more-doubled-its-workforce-2025/410461/#:~:text=The%20federal%20agency%20at%20the%20center%20of,that%20provided%20$8%20billion%20for%20ICE%20hiring.)

²⁰ <https://www.cato.org/blog/ice-has-diverted-over-25000-officers-their-jobs.>

²¹ At 11 March 2026: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/01/03/ice-announces-historic-120-manpower-increase-thanks-recruitment-campaign-brought.>

²² https://www.wsj.com/finance/blackrock-panama-canal-deal-trump-a0af7b7d?mod=article_inline.

²³ <https://fossilfreefunds.org/blog/2025/10/17/ice-is-in-your-401k.html> .

²⁴ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ices-detainee-population-record-high-of-73000/>.

²⁵ Id.; <https://x.com/DropSiteNews/status/2011944196396003596>.

²⁶ <https://baptistnews.com/article/trump-has-lost-4421-cases-about-ice-tactics-but-keeps-on-going/> ; <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/courts-have-ruled-4400-times-that-ice-jailed-people-illegally-it-hasnt-stopped-2026-02-14/>.

²⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/28/us/politics/judge-minnesota-ice-court-orders.html>.

²⁸ https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/press_releases/hickenlooper-colleagues-sound-alarm-on-deaths-in-immigration-detention-under-trump/.

²⁹ <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2026/0203/homeland-security-excessive-force-ice-immigration>.

³⁰ <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/detained-immigrants-detail-physical-abuse-and-inhumane-conditions-at-largest-immigration-detention-center-in-the-u-s>.

³¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166816>.

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- ³² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/12/estados-unidos-nuevas-investigaciones-revelan-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-los-centros-de-detencion-de-alligator-alcatraz-y-krome-en-florida/>.
- ³³ <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/detained-immigrants-detail-physical-abuse-and-inhumane-conditions-at-largest-immigration-detention-center-in-the-u-s>.
- ³⁴ <https://www.ossoff.senate.gov/press-releases/new-sen-ossoff-investigation-uncovers-over-1000-credible-reports-of-human-rights-abuses-in-immigration-detention/>.
- ³⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/12/venezuelans-el-salvador-trump-torture-report>.
- ³⁶ <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/05/30/trump-el-salvador-deportees-criminal-convictions-cecot-venezuela/> .
- ³⁷ <https://time.com/7321835/trump-immigration-ice-detention-crime-data/>.
- ³⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2025/aug/29/trump-immigration-ice-cbp-data>.
- ³⁹ <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/21/nx-s1-5674887/ice-budget-funding-congress-trump>.
- ⁴⁰ [https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2026/01/ice-more-doubled-its-workforce-2025/410461/#:~:text=The%20federal%20agency%20at%20the%20center%20of,that%20provided%20\\$8%20billion%20for%20ICE%20hiring](https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2026/01/ice-more-doubled-its-workforce-2025/410461/#:~:text=The%20federal%20agency%20at%20the%20center%20of,that%20provided%20$8%20billion%20for%20ICE%20hiring).
- ⁴¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/23/us/politics/ice-training-whistle-blower.html>.
- ⁴² <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/01/ice-new-hires-training-minneapolis-shooting/685745/>.
- ⁴³ <https://www.propublica.org/article/videos-ice-dhs-immigration-agents-using-chokeholds-citizens>.
- ⁴⁴ <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/nation-world/federal-agents-pepper-spray-1-year-old-girl-cicero-illinois-operation-midway-blitz-homeland-security> (Federal agents pepper spray 1-year-old girl); <https://edition.cnn.com/2026/01/17/us/minneapolis-family-tear-gassed-ice> (Minneapolis family, six children tear gassed); <https://www.facebook.com/wtrf7news/posts/an-ohio-mom-wants-two-ice-agents-investigated-after-they-deployed-pepper-spray-i/1376416901194228/> (Ohio mom wants two ICE agents investigated after they deployed pepper spray into her open car window, hitting her and three children).
- ⁴⁵ <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/new-filings-detail-harrowing-accounts-of-ice-and-border-patrol-violence-and-intimidation-against-minnesotans>.